

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5023

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BU, EEWT, US

TO: MR. DONALD HASFURTHER

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

BULGARIAN-US ECONOMIC COUNCIL

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1615 H STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

TELEX 248302 CCUS UR

THANK YOU FOR YOUR JULY 25 TELEX CONCERNING THE
UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING. OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN DELAYED
SINCE KEY BULGARIAN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ON VACATION AND
ARE TST NOW RETURNING.

THE PROPOSED TIMING FOR MY BRIEFING AND RECEPTION
IS FINE AND I AGREE THAT A DAY AND A HALF OF MEETINGS
SHOULD BE ALL THAT IS REQUIRED.

REGARDING BULGARIAN PLANNING, WE ARE TOLD THE
FOLLOWING: DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE KINEV WILL
BE CO-CHAIRMAN. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY DECISION
AS TO WHO IN THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT RECEIVE THE GROUP, EVERY
CONSIDERATION WILL BE MADE TO HAVING APPROPRIATELY
HIGH OFFICIALS ON HAND. (I WILL TELEX YOU AS SOON AS
I HAVE FURTHER DETAILS ON THIS MATTER.) THE COMPOSI-
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TION OF THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION WILL BE ESSEZNTIALLY
THE SAME AS FOR THE LAST TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS. DEPUTY
MINISTER BASHIKAROV, LAST YEAR'S CO-CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN
TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DUTIES WITHIN THE FOREIGN TRADE
MINISTRY (RESPONSIBLE NOW FOR WORLD-WIDE MACHINERY
IMPORTS), BUT HE MAY POSSIBLY ATTEND SOME OF THE SESSIONS
AND/OR MEET WITH SOME MEMBERS OF THE GROUP.

CHAMBER OFFICIALS HERE RECOMMEND THAT THE COUNCIL MEETINGS BE HELD AT THE PARK MOSKVA HOTEL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME CHANGES ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN THE PROPOSED AGENDA, BUT WE HAVE NOTHING SPECIFIC YET. IF YOU COULD INFORM US OF THE NUMBER AND/OR NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS AS SOON AS YOU KNOW, THE BULGARIAN SIDE CAN MOVZPAHEAD ON HOTEL RESERVATIONS.

I STRONGLY URGE THAT AT LEAST SOME OFFICIAL FROM THE COUNCIL REMAIN IN BULGARIA FOR THE SEPT 3 OPENING OF THE PLOVDIV TRADE FAIR. THIS IS OUR MAJOR TRADE EVENT OF THE YEAR, AND THE PRESENCE OF SUCH AN OFFICIAL WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL TO US, AS WELL AS TO FURTHERING US CHAMBER INTERESTS. I SHALL BE IN PLOVDIV SATURDAY, SEPT 2, RETURNING TO SOFIA FOLLOWING OPENING CEREMONIES ON THE 3RD.

FINALLY, I APPRECIATE YOUR FRANKNESS IN CALLING MY ATTENTION TO THE DISPLEASURE OF SOME OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS. I INTEND TO PRESS THIS POINT WITH BULGARIANS BETWEEN NOW AND THE COUNCIL MEETING. I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THIS AND OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS.

BEST REGARDS,

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RAYMOND L. GARTHOFF
AMBASSADOR
AMERICAN EMBASSY
SOFIA, BULGARIA

GARTHOFF

NOTE BY OC/T; PASSED ABOVE ADDEE.

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